

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063404
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISP:JHHAWES:GP
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NSC:RBARTHOLOMEW
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S/S:TGMARTIN
-----078301 111926Z /53
O 111911Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 063404

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: GERMAN THIRD PROPOSAL ON ER ARMS
CONTROL LINKAGE

REFERENCE: BONN 6653

1. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM BLECH THAT WITH REGARD TO
THIRD OPTION FOR ER ARMS CONTROL LINKAGE OUTLINED BY BLECH
IN REFTTEL, A TRADE OF ER FOR A MAJOR REDUCTION IN SOVIET
TANKS, OUTSIDE OF MBFR, GOING BEYOND THE NGA, FOLLOWING
ARE US THOUGHTS ON PROPOSAL:

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-- IF FRG PROPOSAL WOULD COVER PORTIONS OF USSR, IT IS
QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE USSR WOULD BE WILLING TO INCLUDE
PART OF ITS TANK FORCE IN THE USSR IN ARMAMENTS REDUCTION
AT THIS POINT.

-- THIS PROPOSAL COULD LEAD SOVIETS TO SEEK NON-PRODUCTION
OF ER, TO BALANCE INVOLVEMENT OF THEIR TERRITORY; OUR

PROPOSAL ON ER IS, HOWEVER, FOR NON-DEPLOYMENT, NOT
NON-PRODUCTION.

-- IT WOULD AMOUNT TO A MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF SOVIET
FORCES BOTH IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE, GOING
NUMERICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE
DEMANDED IN MBFR, AND COULD COMPLICATE AND UNDERCUT THAT
NEGOTIATION.

-- UNLIKE THE ER/SS-20 LINK, IT DOES NOT HAVE THE COMMON
CHARACTERISTIC OF TWO NEW SYSTEMS JUST NOW EMERGING.

-- THEREFORE, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE OUR PROPOSAL FOR
AN ER/SS-20 LINK IS PREFERABLE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Litigation Codes:
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